

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



Department of Executive Services
Finance and Business Operations Division
Procurement and Contract Services Section
206-684-1681 TTY Relay: 711

Date Advertised: **March 2, 2006**

RFP Title: **King County Noxious Weed Control Program Contractor**
Requesting Dept./ Div.: **King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks –
Water and Land Resources Division**
RFP Number: **115-06CMB**
Due Date: **March 16, 2006 – no later than 2:00 P.M.**
Buyer: **Cathy M. Betts** cathy.betts@metrokc.gov, (206) 263-4267

There will be no pre-proposal for this RFP.

Sealed Proposals are hereby solicited and will **ONLY** be received by

**King County Procurement Services Section
Exchange Building, 8th Floor
821 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1598**

Office Hours - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

SUBMITTERS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THE FORM BELOW (TYPE OR PRINT)

Company Name		
Address		City/State/Zip Code
Signature	Authorized Representative / Title	
E-mail	Phone	Fax
Prime Proposer SEDB Certification number (if applicable - see Section II, Part 7 of this RFP)		
Sub-Contractors SEDB Certification numbers (if applicable)		

This Request for Proposal will be provided in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, audio cassette or computer disk for individuals with disabilities upon request.

If you received or downloaded this document in .pdf format, a MS Word copy may be obtained by contacting the buyer listed above. This MS Word document will be transmitted by e-mail.

Sealed proposals are hereby solicited and will be received only at the office of the King County Procurement Services Section at 821 Second Avenue, 8th Floor, Seattle, Washington, 98104 no later than 2 p.m. on the date noted above regarding a *King County Noxious Week Control Program Contractor* for the *King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks – Water & Land Resources Division*. These services shall be provided to King County in accordance with the following and the attached instructions, requirements, and specifications.

Submittal: King County requires the Proposer to sign and return *this entire Request for Proposal (RFP) document*. The Proposer shall provide *one unbound original* and *three (3) copies* of the proposal response, data or attachments offered, for *four (4) items* total. The original in both cases shall be noted or stamped "Original".

Questions: Proposers will be required to submit any questions in writing prior to the close of business Tuesday, March 7, 2005 in order for staff to prepare any response required to be answered by Addendum. Questions are best received and most quickly responded to when sent via e-mail directly to the following King County procurement personnel: *Primary* – Cathy Betts, Buyer cathy.betts@metrokc.gov / *Secondary* – Roy L. Dodman, Senior Buyer roy.dodman@metrokc.gov. Questions may also be sent via fax or mail to the address above.

SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. King County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against individuals or firms because of their race, color, creed, marital status, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or the presence of any mental, physical or sensory handicap in an otherwise qualified handicapped person.
- B. All submitted proposals and evaluation materials become public information and may be reviewed by appointment by anyone requesting to do so *at the conclusion* of the evaluation, negotiation, and award process. This process is concluded when a signed contract is completed between King County and the selected Contractor. Please note that if an interested party requests copies of submitted documents or evaluation materials, a standard King County copying charge per page must be received prior to processing the copies. King County *will not* make available photocopies of pre-printed brochures, catalogs, tear sheets or audio-visual materials that are submitted as support documents with a proposal. Those materials will be available for review at King County Procurement.
- C. No other distribution of proposals will be made by the Proposers prior to any public disclosure regarding the RFP, the proposal or any subsequent awards without written approval by King County. For this RFP all proposals received by King County shall remain valid for ninety (90) days from the date of submittal. All proposals received in response to this RFP will be retained.
- D. Proposals shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward and concise but complete and detailed description of the Proposer's abilities to meet the requirements of this RFP. Fancy bindings, colored displays and promotional materials are not desired. Emphasis shall be on completeness of content.
- E. King County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals that are deemed not responsive to its needs.
- F. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, addenda shall be created and posted at the King County Procurement web site. Addenda will also be conveyed to those potential submitters providing an accurate e-mail address. If desired, a hard copy of any addenda may be provided upon request.
- G. King County is not liable for any cost incurred by the Proposer prior to issuing the contract.
- H. A contract may be negotiated with the Proposer whose proposal would be most advantageous to King County in the opinion of the King County Department of Transportation, all factors considered. King County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.
- I. It is proposed that if a selection is made as a result of this RFP, a contract with a fixed price (prices) will be negotiated. Negotiations may be undertaken with the Proposer who is considered to be the most suitable for the work. This RFP is primarily designed to identify the most qualified firm. Price and schedule will be negotiated with the "first choice" Proposer; negotiations may be instituted with the second choice and subsequent Proposer until the project is canceled or an acceptable contract is executed.

- J. This RFP shall be available for use by all King County Departments, Divisions and Agencies. If orders will be placed by the County's Transit Division, the Contractor will be required to sign and comply with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA)'s required documentation. This RFP may also be used, as appropriate and allowed, by other governmental agencies and political sub-divisions within the State of Washington.
- K. The contents of the proposal of the selected Proposer shall become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the Proposer to accept these obligations may result in cancellation of their selection.
- L. A contract between the Contractor and King County shall include all documents mutually entered into specifically including the contract instrument, the original RFP *as issued* by King County, and the response to the RFP. The contract must include, and be consistent with, the specifications and provisions stated in the RFP.
- M. News releases pertaining to this RFP, the services, or the project to which it relates, shall not be made without prior approval by, and then only in coordination with, the King County Department of Executive Services.
- N. King County Code 4.16.025 prohibits the acceptance of any proposal after the time and date specified on the Request for Proposal. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement.
- O. King County agencies' staffs are prohibited from speaking with potential Proposers about the project during the solicitation.

Please direct all questions to:

Cathy M. Betts / Buyer
(206) 263-4267
cathy.betts@metrokc.gov

or Roy L. Dodman / Senior Buyer
(206) 263-4266
roy.dodman@metrokc.gov

NOTE: Documents and other information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling Mary Lou Allwine at 206-296-4210 or TTY711.

- P. Protest Procedure - King County has a process in place for receiving protests based upon either proposals or contract awards. If you would like to receive or review a copy, please contact the Buyer named on the front page of this document or call Procurement Services at 206-684-1681.
- Q. Term Service Requirement

If a contract is awarded based on this RFP, it may contain the following provision:

Contract Extension

The initial contract period will be for one (1) year from the start date of the contract. The term of the contract may be extended in one (1) year increments for two (2) additional one-year periods for a total contract duration of three (3) years, in accordance with the County's best interest and at the sole option of the County. Prices shall remain firm for the duration of the contract period. Reasonable price changes based on market conditions and price/cost analysis *may* be requested, if such escalations are based on changes in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI-U") for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Statistical Metropolitan Area for the preceding calendar year. You may obtain information about the CPI-U in general and the Seattle area in particular by visiting the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. In the event the CPI-U (or a successor or substitute index) is no longer published, a reliable government or other non-partisan index of inflation selected by the County shall be used to calculate any adjusted amounts. Requests for any such changes are to be made in writing to the Department of Natural Resources & Parks, and approved by the County Executive or his/her designee. Any agreed-to change shall take effect at the time of the contract extension and shall remain in effect throughout the extension period. The parties hereto recognize that such changes could be increases or decreases in the prices; both parties are entitled to benefit from such price changes.

- R. Electronic Commerce and Correspondence. King County is committed to reducing costs and facilitating quicker communication to the community by using electronic means to convey information. As such, most Invitations to Bid and Requests for Proposal, as well as related exhibits, appendices, and issued addenda can be found on the King County Internet Web Site, located at <http://metrokc.gov/procurement>. Please refer to the "RFPs, RFQs & ITBs / New / Goods & Services" portion of the site (note: some documents or portions thereof may not be posted on the site. Please note any special messages regarding a particular solicitation). This information is posted at the Web Site as a *convenience* to the public, and is not intended to replace the King County process of formally requesting bid documents and providing the County with contact information for the potential proposer. Each proposer bears the responsibility to confirm the completeness and accuracy of all documents pertaining to a given solicitation, including the receipt of all issued addenda.

If a proposer downloads a document from the Web Site and does not contact the Procurement Office to obtain a hard copy, the proposer *must* use the "Feedback" (Envelope) button at the bottom of the Web page to convey the proposer's company name, contact name, mailing address, and phone/fax number to the County. Please note which document/documents were downloaded.

After proposals have been opened in public, the County will post a listing of the Contractors submitting proposals at the King County Internet site. Please refer to the "RFPs, RFQs & ITBs / Awarded / Goods & Services" portion of the site for a listing, as well as a notification of a final award.

Unless otherwise requested, letters and other transmittals pertaining to this RFP will be issued to the e-mail address noted in our files, and after submittal, noted on the first page of this document. If other personnel should be contacted via e-mail in the evaluation of this proposal, or to be notified of evaluation results, please complete the information in the table below.

Contact Name	Title	Phone	E-mail address

- S. Washington State Public Disclosure Act (RCW 42.17) requires public agencies in Washington to promptly make public records available for inspection and copying unless they fall within the specified exemptions contained in the Act, or are otherwise privileged.
- T. Proposals submitted under this RFP shall be considered public documents and with limited exceptions proposals that are recommended for contract award will be available for inspection and copying by the public. King County may request an electronic copy of your proposal response at a later time for this purpose. This copy may be requested in MS Word format, and delivered either by e-mail or directly delivered on CD.

If a Proposer considers any portion of his/her proposal to be protected under the law, the Proposer shall clearly identify on the page(s) affected such words as "CONFIDENTIAL," "PROPRIETARY" or "BUSINESS SECRET." The Proposer shall also use the descriptions above in the following table to identify the effected page number(s) and location(s) of any material to be considered as confidential (attach additional sheets as necessary). If a request is made for disclosure of such portion, the County will determine whether the material should be made available under the law. If the material is not exempt from public disclosure law, the County will notify the Proposer of the request and allow the Proposer ten (10) days to take whatever action it deems necessary to protect its interests. If the Proposer fails or neglects to take such action within said period, the County will release the portion of the Proposal deemed subject to disclosure. By submitting a Proposal, the Proposer assents to the procedure outlined in this paragraph and shall have no claim against the County on account of actions taken under such procedure.

Type of exemption	Beginning Page / Location	Ending Page / Location

- U. Proposers are urged to use recycled/recyclable products and both sides of paper for printed and photocopied materials, whenever practicable, in preparing responses to this RFP.
- V. During the solicitation process, King County strongly discourages the transmittal of Company information, brochures, and other promotional materials, other than address, contact and e-mail information, prior to the due date of proposals. Any pre-packaged material received by a potential proposer prior to the receipt of proposals shall not be reviewed by the County.
- W. Bid Identification Label: Please see the Bid Identification Label on the last page of this document.

SECTION II – PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK.

PART 1 – Introduction

The King County Noxious Weed Control Program is seeking professional and technical services for the removal/control of noxious weeds. The successful proposal will be selected based on demonstrated ability to perform the work in accordance with specifications stated in this scope of work, including ability to perform work within 72 hours of notification, during an estimated seven-month period commencing on or about April 1, 2006. Contractors need to be licensed to work in all areas described in this scope of work. The budget for this contract is for up to \$55,000.00 per year for three years not to exceed \$165,000.00 during the lifetime of this contract.

PART 2 - Scope

This work will primarily involve controlling noxious weeds in the event that land managers fail to voluntarily control noxious weeds on their property. Control methods used will utilize manual, mechanical and chemical methods. Terrain covered under this scope of work includes

A. OPEN FLAT LANDSCAPE

B. ROUGH TERRAIN, including trees, hills, stony areas, urban yards etc., requiring spot or combination treatments.

C. ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND/OR AQUATICS, requiring alternative treatment methods, special permits and certifications (specify methods).

D. ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY AREAS. In the event noxious weed control activities need to be conducted in these areas, the contractor needs to be qualified to operate in these areas. The contractor will also be responsible to arrange for traffic control if required.

In addition to the work listed above, King County retains the right to utilize the contractor on projects to control selected noxious weeds. Weed control activities may occur in any of the above listed terrains.

PART 3 - Required Performance

The selected contractor will be responsible for the following:

- Control work will begin only after receiving a begin work order from the King County Noxious Weed Control Board (KCNWCB) representative who will be present at the site.
- Perform control work only on specific properties and on specific weeds as specified by the KCNWCB and contacting the KCNWCB if there is any doubt as to the size, location of property or location of noxious weed infestation on the property.
- Compliance with all Federal, local and state laws and regulations affecting the weed control activities.
- Providing the KCNWCB with complete records of control methods used, type of herbicide used to perform work (if applicable), number of hours required to perform work, starting date, starting time and stopping time and amount of material removed from property if manual control methods are used.
- Presenting a complete billing to the KCNWCB within ten days of completion of the work performed. Payments for work performed will be subject to approval by the KCNWCB.
- Provide completed WSDA herbicide application record; if applicable, with billing paperwork.
- To commence and complete all requested work in a timely and professional manner (within 72 hrs).
- When herbicides are to be used, the KCNWCB has an option to review the herbicide selection.
- Complying with any State, County or Municipal traffic control plans for roads and rights-of-way.
- Providing the KCNWCB with a copy of current WSDA pesticide applicators license and all endorsements.

PART 4 – Proposal Format

Proposals shall include a clear, concise discussion of the following items:

- Describe the ability of your company to perform the work elements described in the scope of work, including the qualifications of the staff that will be involved with the project and their levels of expertise.
- Describe your company's history and background related to the elements described in the scope of work.
- Describe your company's ability to identify noxious weeds and any relevant training received.
- Describe your company's equipment available to conduct work listed in the above scope of work. Include any available GIS/GPS capabilities.
- Provide the estimated cost for each control method, broken down by terrain.
- Provide a customer reference list for similar projects that your company has undertaken, indicating the dates of the project, a brief description of the scope, and a contact name with phone number.
- Bids must include a disclosure of all fines or license suspensions issued within the last 5 years to your company in connection with any projects similar to the one proposed.
- Provide a copy of current WSDA pesticide applicators license and all endorsements.

PART 5 – Evaluation Criteria

A technical evaluation committee will review all proposals submitted by the deadline. The evaluation will be based on the information provided by the respondent, as well as that provided by references or any other pertinent information available to King County. The highest ranked applicants may be asked to come to the King Street Center for an interview, depending on the outcome of the proposal evaluation, and the interview appraisals will be factored into the selection procedure. If interviews are conducted, they will have a maximum value of 30 points. Final award would then be based on the overall score of the written evaluation and interviews.

The evaluation of the written proposals will have a maximum score of 110 points, assigned by the following criteria:

Criteria	Points possible
Ability to control noxious weeds utilizing all control methods on all listed terrains	30
Plant identification qualifications and experience	20
Clarity and completeness of proposal	20
Ability to respond to any site within 72 hours	10
Quality of references	10
Estimated costs	10
SEDB Participation (see Part 7 below)	10
Total	100

Interview assessment criteria (if required) will include the candidate's responses demonstrating the ability to perform at a high quality level all technical aspects of the work, the ability to provide services on time, and to be flexible if control work is delayed or must be rescheduled due to unexpected circumstances.

PART 6 – Schedule (some dates potentially subject to change)

RFP Issued	March 2, 2006
Last Written Questions Due	March 7, 2006
Addendum Issued If Needed	March 9, 2006
RFP Closes, no later than 2 p.m.....	March 16, 2006
Evaluation Process Starts.....	March 17, 2006
Contractor Selected	March 24, 2006
Contract Signed	March 31, 2006
Contract Starts.....	April 1, 2006

PART 7 - King County Contracting Opportunities Program

The purpose of the King County Contracting Opportunities Program is to maximize the participation of Small Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (SEDB) through the use of rating points in the award of King County competitively bid contracts for the acquisition of technical services. The program is open to all firms that are certified as an SEDB by King County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Office.

A "Small Economically Disadvantaged Business" (SEDB) means that a business and the person or persons who own and control it are in a financial condition, which puts the business at a substantial disadvantage in attempting to compete for public contracts. The relevant financial condition for eligibility under the Program is set at fifty percent (50%) of the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) small business size standards using the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), and an Owners' Personal Net Worth less than \$750K dollars.

A "Certified Firm" means a business that has applied for participation in King County's Contracting Opportunities Program, and has been certified as an SEDB by the King County Business Development and Contract Compliance (BDCC) office. Information about becoming a Certified Firm, as well as a list of Certified Firms, may be obtained by visiting the King County's Contracting Opportunities Program Website address: <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/bred/bdcc/prog/kccontractopp.htm> or contacting the BDCC office at (206) 205-0711.

In the evaluation of proposals, ten points will be allotted for SEDB participation. King County will count only the participation of SEDBs that are certified by King County at the date and time of proposal submittal. After tabulation of the selection criteria points of all prime submitters, ten (10) points shall be added to the score of all proposals that meet at least one of the two following sub-criterion:

1. If the Prime submitter is a SEDB firm that anticipates performing work for the entire contract unassisted and includes the SEDB certification number on page one of this submittal.
2. If the Prime submitter is not an SEDB but will use SEDBs for at least 5% of the total contract labor hours in the work to be performed in this contract, and who complete the following table and include it in their proposal submission:

SEDB Certification Number	Sub-Contractor Name	Contact Name / Phone	Work to be performed	Percentage of Total Hours

SEDB participation shall be counted only for SEDBs performing a commercially useful function according to custom and practice in the industry. A commercially useful function is defined as a specific scope of work for which the SEDB has the management and technical expertise to perform using its own workforce and resources.

SECTION III - NONDISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

If a contract is awarded from this Request for Proposal, it will contain the following contract language:

PART 1: NON-DISCRIMINATION

- A. King County Code Chapters 12.16, 12.17 and 12.18 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and such requirements apply to this Contract; provided however, that no specific levels of utilization of minorities and women in the workforce of the Contractor shall be required, and the Contractor is not required to grant any preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in its employment practices; and provided further that, notwithstanding the foregoing, any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal regulations, statutes or rules included or referenced in the contract documents shall continue to apply.
- B. During the performance of this Contract, neither the Contractor nor any party subcontracting under the authority of this Contract shall discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, nationality, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability in the employment or application for employment or in the administration or delivery of services or any other benefits under this Contract.
- C. The Contractor shall, prior to the commencement of the work and during the term of this Contract, furnish the County, upon request and on such forms as may be provided by the County, a report of the affirmative action taken by the Contractor in implementing the terms of this section. The Contractor will permit access by the County to the Contractor's records of employment, employment advertisements, application forms, other pertinent data and records related to this Contract for the purpose of monitoring and investigation to determine compliance with these requirements.
- D. The Contractor shall implement and carry out the obligations contained in its Affidavit and Certificate of Compliance regarding equal employment opportunity. Failure to implement and carry out such obligations in good faith may be considered by the County as a material breach of this Contract and grounds for withholding payment and/or termination of the Contract and dismissal of the Contractor.
- E. The Contractor shall comply fully with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, executive orders and regulations that prohibit such discrimination. These laws include, but are not limited to, RCW Chapter 49.60 and Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- F. During the performance of this Contract, neither the Contractor nor any party subcontracting under the authority of this Contract shall engage in unfair employment practices. It is an unfair employment practice for any:
 - 1. Employer or labor organization to discriminate against any person with respect to referral, hiring, tenure, promotion, terms, conditions, wages or other privileges of employment;
 - 2. Employment agency or labor organization to discriminate against any person with respect to membership rights and privileges, admission to or participation in any guidance program, apprenticeship training program, or other occupational training program;
 - 3. Employer, employment agency, or labor organization to print, circulate, or cause to be printed, published or circulated, any statement, advertisement, or publication relating to employment or membership, or to use any form of application thereof, which indicates any discrimination unless based upon a bona fide occupation qualification;
 - 4. Employment agency to discriminate against any person with respect to any reference for employment or assignment to a particular job classification;
 - 5. Employer, employment agency or a labor organization to retaliate against any person because this person has opposed any practice forbidden by KCC Chapter 12.18 or because that person has made a charge, testified or assisted in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing initiated under the provisions of KCC Chapter 12.18;

6. Publisher, firm, corporation, organization or association printing, publishing or circulating any newspaper, magazine or other written publication to print or cause to be printed or circulated any advertisement with knowledge that the same is in violation of KCC Chapter 12.18.030C., or to segregate and separately designate advertisements as applying only to men and women unless such discrimination is reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the particular business, enterprise or employment, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification; and/or
7. Employer to prohibit any person from speaking in a language other than English in the workplace unless:
 - a. The employer can show that requiring that employees speak English at certain times is justified by business necessity, and
 - b. The employer informs employees of the requirement and the consequences of violating the rule.

PART 2: REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

- A. All Contractors entering into a contract or agreement with King County valued at \$25,000 or more shall, after the proposer receives written notice of selection, submit the following:
 1. A Personnel Inventory Report on the form provided by the County.
 2. An Affidavit of Compliance demonstrating the Contractor's commitment to comply with the provisions of KCC Chapter 12.16.
 3. A Sworn Statement of Compliance with 12.16 from any labor union or employee referral agency that refers workers or employees or provides or supervises training programs from whom the Contractor obtains employees.
- B. The County will not execute any agreement or contract without prior receipt of fully executed forms listed in subparagraph A above.
- C. Assistance with the requirements of this Section and copies of Chapters 12.16, 12.17 and 12.18 are available from the Business Development & Contract Compliance (BDCC) Section, phone (206) 205-0700.

PART 3: NONDISCRIMINATION IN SUBCONTRACTING PRACTICES

- A. Compliance with Initiative 200. In accordance with the provisions of Washington Initiative 200, no County Minority and Women Business (M/WBE) utilization requirements shall apply to this Contract. No minimum level of M/WBE sub-contractor participation or purchase from M/WBE certified vendors is required and no preference will be given by the County to a bidder or Proposer for their M/WBE utilization or M/WBE status. Provided, however, that any affirmative action requirements set forth in any federal regulations or statutes included or referenced in the Contract documents will continue to apply.
- B. Non-Discrimination. During the term of this Contract, the Contractor shall not create barriers to open and fair opportunities to participate in County contracts or to obtain or compete for contracts and subcontracts as sources of supplies, equipment, construction and services. In considering offers from and doing business with sub-contractors and suppliers, the Contractor shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation or the presence of any mental or physical disability in an otherwise qualified disabled person.

During the performance of work performed under any Agreement resulting from this RFP, neither the Contractor nor any party subcontracting under the authority of the agreement shall discriminate or engage in unfair contracting practices prohibited by K.C.C. 12.17.

- C. Record-Keeping Requirements. The Contractor shall maintain, for at least 6 years after completion of all work under this contract, records and information necessary to document its level of utilization of M/WBEs and other businesses as sub-contractors and suppliers in this contract and in its overall public and private business activities for the same period. The Contractor shall also maintain, for at least 6 years after completion of all work under this contract, all written quotes, bids, estimates or proposals submitted to the Contractor by all businesses seeking to participate on this Contract. Contractor shall make such

documents available to the County for inspection and copying upon request. If this contract involves federal funds, Contractor shall comply with all record keeping requirements set forth in any federal rules, regulations or statutes included or referenced in the contract documents.

D. Open Competitive Opportunities. King County encourages the utilization of minority owned businesses ("MBEs") and women-owned businesses ("WBEs")(collectively, "M/WBEs") in County contracts. The County encourages the following practices to promote open competitive opportunities for small businesses including M/WBEs:

1. Attending a pre-bid or pre-solicitation conference, if scheduled by the County, to provide project information and to inform M/WBEs and other firms of contracting and subcontracting opportunities.
2. Placing all qualified small businesses attempting to do business in King County, including M/WBEs, on solicitation lists, and providing written notice of subcontracting opportunities to M/WBEs and all other small businesses capable of performing the work, including without limitation all businesses on any list provided by the County, in sufficient time to allow such businesses to respond to the written solicitations.
3. Breaking down total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities, where economically feasible, in order to permit maximum participation by small businesses including M/WBEs.
4. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirements of this contract permit, that encourage participation by small businesses, including M/WBEs.
5. Providing small businesses including M/WBEs that express interest with adequate and timely information about plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract.
6. Utilizing the services of available community organizations, Contractor groups, local assistance offices, the County, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of small businesses including M/WBEs.

Further, the County encourages small businesses, including M/WBEs, to participate in the following practices to promote open competitive opportunities:

1. Attending a pre-bid or pre-solicitation conference, if scheduled by the County, to receive project information and to inform prime bidders/proposers of contracting and subcontracting capabilities.
2. Requesting placement on solicitation lists, and receipt of written notice of subcontracting opportunities.
3. Utilizing the services of available community organizations, Contractor groups, local assistance offices, the County, and other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of small businesses and M/WBEs.

E. Sanctions for Violations. Any violation of the mandatory requirements of the provisions of this Section shall be a material breach of contract for which the Contractor may be subject to damages and sanctions provided for by contract and by applicable law.

PART 4: REQUIREMENTS DURING WORK

A. Site Visits

King County may at any time visit the site of the work and the Contractor's office to review records related to actual utilization of and payments to subcontracting firms. The Contractor shall maintain sufficient records necessary to enable King County to review utilization of subcontracting firms. The Contractor shall provide every assistance requested by King County during such visits.

PART 5: COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

The Contractor shall complete a Disability Self-Evaluation Questionnaire for all programs and services offered by the Contractor (including any services not subject to this Contract) and shall evaluate its services, programs and employment practices for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

("504"), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). The Contractor shall complete a 504/ADA Disability Assurance of Compliance prior to execution of a contract.

SECTION IV - GENERAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

PART 1: TERMINATION CLAUSES

- A. This Contract may be terminated by the County without cause, in whole or in part, upon providing the Contractor ten (10) calendar days' advance written notice of the termination.

If the Contract is terminated pursuant to this Section IV, paragraph A: (1) the County will be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this Contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination; and (2) the Contractor shall be released from any obligation to provide further services pursuant to the Contract.

- B. The County may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, upon five (5) calendar days' advance written notice in the event: (1) the Contractor materially breaches any duty, obligation, or services required pursuant to this Contract, or (2) the duties, obligations, or services required herein become impossible, illegal, or not feasible.

If the Contract is terminated by the County pursuant to this Subsection IV(B) (1), the Contractor shall be liable for damages, including any additional costs of procurement of similar services from another source.

If the termination results from acts or omissions of the Contractor, including but not limited to misappropriation, nonperformance of required services or fiscal mismanagement, the Contractor shall return to the County immediately any funds, misappropriated or unexpended, which have been paid to the Contractor by the County.

- C. If expected or actual funding is withdrawn, reduced or limited in any way prior to the termination date set forth above in Section II or in any amendment hereto, the County may, upon written notice to the Contractor, immediately terminate this Contract in whole or in part.

If the Contract is terminated pursuant to this Section IV, paragraph C: (1) the County will be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this Contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination; and (2) the Contractor shall be released from any obligation to provide further services pursuant to the Contract.

Funding under this Contract beyond the current appropriation year is conditional upon appropriation by the County Council of sufficient funds to support the activities described in this Contract. Should such an appropriation not be approved, this contract will terminate at the close of the current appropriation year.

- D. Nothing herein shall limit, waive, or extinguish any right or remedy provided by this Contract or law that either party may have in the event that the obligations, terms and conditions set forth in this Contract are breached by the other party.

PART 2: INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

- A. In providing services under this Contract, the Contractor is an *independent contractor*, and neither the Contractor nor its officers, agents or employees are an employee of the County for any purpose. The Contractor shall be responsible for all federal and/or state tax, industrial insurance, and Social Security liability that may result from the performance of and compensation for these services and shall make no claim of career service or civil service rights which may accrue to a County employee under state or local law.

The County assumes no responsibility for the payment of any compensation, wages, benefits or taxes to, or on behalf of, the Contractor, its employees or others by reason of this Contract. The Contractor shall protect, indemnify and save harmless the County, its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, costs and/or losses whatsoever occurring or resulting from 1) the Contractor's failure to pay any such compensation, wages, benefits or taxes; and 2) the supplying to the Contractor of work, services, materials and/or supplies by Contractor employees or other suppliers in connection with the performance of this Contract.

- B. The Contractor further agrees that it is financially responsible for and shall repay the County all indicated amounts following an audit exception which occurs due to the negligence, intentional acts or failure for any reason to comply with the terms of this Contract by the Contractor, its officers, employees, agents and/or representatives. This duty to repay the County shall not be diminished or extinguished by the prior termination of the Contract pursuant to the Duration of Contract, or the Termination section.
- C. The Contractor shall protect, defend, indemnify, and save harmless the County, [and the State of Washington (when any funds for this Contract are provided by the State of Washington)] their officers, employees, and agents from any and all costs, claims, judgments, and/or awards of damages, arising out of or in any way resulting from the negligent acts or omissions of the Contractor, its officers, employees, and/or agents. The Contractor agrees that its obligations under this subparagraph extend to any claim, demand and/or cause of action brought by or on behalf of any of its employees or agents. For this purpose, the Contractor by mutual negotiation, hereby waives, as respects the County only, any immunity that would otherwise be available against such claims under the Industrial Insurance provisions of Title 51 RCW. In the event that County incurs attorney fees and/or costs in the defense of claims, for damages within the scope of this section, such fees and costs shall be recoverable from the Contractor. In addition King County shall be entitled to recover from the Contractor fees, and costs incurred to enforce the provisions of this section.

Claims shall include, but not be limited to, assertions that the use or transfer of any software, book, document, report, film, tape, or sound reproduction or material of any kind, delivered hereunder, constitutes an infringement of any copyright, patent, trademark, trade name, or otherwise results in unfair trade practice.

Nothing contained within this provision shall affect and/or alter the application of any other provision contained within this agreement.

PART 3: INSURANCE

At a minimum, the selected Contractor shall furnish Commercial General Liability, to include Products and Completed Operations, in the amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit; \$2,000,000 aggregate. The selected Contractor shall provide evidence of Workers' Compensation and Stop-Gap Employer's Liability for a limit of \$1,000,000. Further, the selected Contractor shall furnish Automobile Liability with a limit of \$1,000,000.

Additionally, the selected Contract shall provide:

- A. **U.S. Longshoreman and Harbor Workers' coverage.** This coverage shall be required If the contract involves work on or adjacent to navigable water, as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. If so, the contract shall require proof of insurance coverage in compliance with the statutory requirements of **Longshoreman and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act** (administered by the U.S. Department of Labor).
- B. **Protection & Indemnity (to include Jones Act).** If the contract involves marine activities, or work from a boat, vessel, or floating platform, Contractor shall provide Protection & Indemnity coverage including injury to crew (Jones Act) and passengers; Protection & Indemnity, SP 38 or SP 23 for \$ 1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence, and for those policies with aggregate limits, a \$ 1,000,000 aggregate limit.
- C. **Pollution Liability (OPA, CERCLA):** \$1,000,000 and statutory limits of liability as applicable. Whenever performance of this contract involves marine activities or work from boat, vessel or floating platform, Contractor shall provide Pollution insurance to satisfy U.S. Coast Guard requirements as respects the Federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 as amended.
- D. **Hull and Machinery:** Whenever performance of this contract involves marine activities or work from boat, vessel or floating platform, Contractor shall provide coverage at Market Value of vessel on American Institute Hull Clauses, 6/2/77 form.

In addition to the above, for Protection and Indemnity Insurance the Contractor shall waive all rights of subrogation against the County.

Such policy/policies shall endorse King County, and its appointed and elected officials, officers, agents and employees as additional insureds.

King County reserves the right to approve deductible/self-insured retention levels and the acceptability of insurers.

PART 4: CORRECTIVE ACTION

If the County determines that a breach of contract has occurred, that is the Contractor has failed to comply with any terms or conditions of this Contract or the Contractor has failed to provide in any manner the work or services agreed to herein, and if the County deems said breach to warrant corrective action, the following sequential procedure will apply:

- A. The County will notify the Contractor in writing of the nature of the breach;
- B. The Contractor shall respond in writing within three (3) working days of its receipt of such notification, which response shall indicate the steps being taken to correct the specified deficiencies. The corrective action plan shall specify the proposed completion date for bringing the Contract into compliance, which date shall not be more than ten (10) days from the date of the Contractor's response; unless the County, at its sole discretion, specifies in writing an extension in the number of days to complete the corrective actions;
- C. The County will notify the Contractor in writing of the County's determination as to the sufficiency of the Contractor's corrective action plan. The determination of sufficiency of the Contractor's corrective plan shall be at the sole discretion of the County;
- D. In the event that the Contractor does not respond within the appropriate time with a corrective action plan, or the Contractor's corrective action plan is determined by the County to be insufficient, the County may commence termination of this Contract in whole or in part pursuant to Section IV.B;
- E. In addition, the County may withhold any payment owed the Contractor or prohibit the Contractor from incurring additional obligations of funds until the County is satisfied that corrective action has been taken or completed; and
- F. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect or waive any rights the parties may have pursuant to Section IV, Termination Clauses, Subsections A, B, C, and D.

PART 5: ASSIGNMENT/SUBCONTRACTING

- A. The Contractor shall not assign or subcontract any portion of this Contract or transfer or assign any claim arising pursuant to this Contract without the written consent of the County. Said consent must be sought in writing by the Contractor not less than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of any proposed assignment.
- B. "Subcontract" shall mean any agreement between the Contractor and a Subcontractor or between Subcontractors that is based on this Contract, provided that the term "subcontract" does not include the purchase of (i) support services not related to the subject matter of this contract, or (ii) supplies.

SECTION V - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

- A. Non-Discrimination in Benefits to employees with Domestic Partners

King County's Equal Benefits (EB) Ordinance 14823 states that to be eligible for award of contracts at a cost of \$25,000.00 or more, firms must not discriminate in the provisions of employee benefits between employees with spouses, and employees with domestic partners. The successful Contractor, bidder or proposer shall be required to complete a Worksheet and Declaration form. Compliance with Ordinance 14823 is a mandatory condition for execution of a contract. The EB Compliance forms are available online at: http://www.metrokc.gov/procurement/resources/forms_eb.aspx.

B. Disclosure – Conflict of Interest

King County Code Chapter 3.04 is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and the Contractor agrees to abide by all the conditions of said Chapter. Failure by the Contractor to comply with any requirements of this Chapter shall be a material breach of contract.

1. The Contractor covenants that no officer, employee, or agent of the County who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and implementation of the scope of services funded herein, or any other person who presently exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and implementation of the scope of services funded herein shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Contract. The Contractor shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance with this provision.
2. If the Contractor violates the provisions of Section V (1) or does not disclose other interest required to be disclosed pursuant to King County Code Section 3.04.120, as amended, the County will not be liable for payment of services rendered pursuant to this Contract. Violation of this Section shall constitute a substantial breach of this Contract and grounds for termination pursuant to Section IV (B) above as well as any other right or remedy provided in this Contract or law.
3. The King County Board of Ethics maintains a website that provides information regarding King County ethics requirements. To review specific areas of the Code of Ethics that relate to contractors and vendors, follow this path: <http://www.metrokc.gov/ethics/>, and access 1) The Code of Ethics, “Employee Code of Ethics 3.04”, and 2) Advice and Guidance “Doing Business with Contractors, Vendors, Clients and Customers”. Under “Employee Code of Ethics 3.04”, there are two areas of the code that speak specifically to contractors: 3.04.060 B1 (attempting to secure preferential treatment) and 3.04.120 (disclosure of interests by consultants requirement). There are other sections under conflict of interest, 3.04.030 that are directed to employees and govern their relationships with contractors.

C. Recycled/Recyclable Products

It is the policy of King County to use recycled materials to the maximum extent practicable (King County Code Chapter 10.16). Contractors able to supply products containing recycled materials that meet performance requirements are encouraged to offer them in bids and proposals and to use them wherever possible in fulfillment of contracts.

The Contractor shall use recycled paper for the production of all printed and photocopied documents related to the fulfillment of this Contract and shall ensure that, whenever possible, the cover page of each document printed on recycled paper bears an imprint identifying it as recycled paper. If the cost of recycled paper is more than fifteen percent higher than the cost of non-recycled paper, the Contractor may notify the Contract Administrator, who may waive the recycled paper requirement. The Contractor shall use both sides of paper sheets for copying and printing and shall use recycled/recyclable products wherever practical in the fulfillment of this Contract.

D. Proprietary Rights

The parties to this Contract hereby mutually agree that if any patentable or copyrightable material or article should result from the work described herein, all rights accruing from such material or article shall be the sole property of the County. The foregoing shall not apply to existing training materials, consulting aids, check lists and other materials and documents of the Contractor which are modified for use in the performance of this Contract.

E. Supported Employment Program

King County encourages the creation of supported employment programs for developmentally and/or severely disabled individuals. The County itself has such a program and is actively seeking to do business with those contractors and consultants that share this employment approach. If your firm has such a program, or intends to develop such a program during the life of this contract, please submit documentation supporting this claim with your bid/proposal/qualifications. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Ray Jensen, Community & Human Services, Developmental Disabilities

Division, (206) 296-5268 or the County's Business Development and Contract Compliance Section at (206) 205-0700.

SECTION VI - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS/AUDITS

- A. The Contractor shall maintain, and shall require any sub-contractor to maintain, accounts and records, including personnel, property, financial and programmatic records and other such records as may be deemed necessary by the County to ensure proper accounting for all project funds and compliance with this Contract. All such records shall sufficiently and properly reflect all direct and indirect costs of any nature expended and services provided in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor shall make such documents available to the County for inspection, copying, and auditing upon request.
- B. All records referenced in subsection (A) shall be maintained for a period of six (6) years after completion of work or termination hereof unless permission to destroy them is granted by the Office of the Archivist in accordance with RCW Chapter 40.14, or unless a longer retention period is required by law.
- C. The Contractor shall provide access to its facilities, including those of any sub-contractor, to the County, the state and/or federal agencies or officials at all reasonable times in order to monitor and evaluate the services provided under this Contract. The County will give advance notice to the Contractor in the case of fiscal audits to be conducted by the County.
- D. The Contractor agrees to cooperate with the County or its designee in the evaluation of services provided under this Contract and to make available all information reasonably required by any such evaluation process. The results and records of said evaluation shall be maintained and disclosed in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.17.
- E. If the Contractor received a total of \$500,000.00 or more in federal financial assistance during its fiscal year from the County, and is a non-profit organization or institution of higher learning or a hospital affiliated with an institution of higher learning, and is, under this Contract, carrying out or administering a program or portion of a program, it shall have an independent audit conducted of its financial statement and condition, which shall comply with the requirements of GAAS (generally accepted auditing standards), GAO's Standards for Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions and OMB Circulars A-133 and A-128, as amended and as applicable. Contractors receiving federal funds from more than one County Department or Division shall be responsible for determining if the combined financial assistance is equal or greater than \$500,000.00. The Contractor shall provide one copy of the audit report to each County division providing federal financial assistance to the Contractor no later than six (6) months subsequent to the end of the Contractor's fiscal year.

SECTION VII – REQUIRED FORMS


The following completed forms will be required from the selected contractor, prior to contract award:

- A. King County Personnel Inventory Report
- B. Affidavit and Certificate of Compliance with King County Code 12.16
- C. Statement of Compliance - Union or Employee Referral Agency Statement (if applicable)
- D. 504/ADA Disability Assurance of Compliance and Corrective Action Plan
- E. Equal Benefits Compliance Declaration Form

Copies of these forms are available by contacting the King County Procurement and Contract Services Division. They are available in paper form, or may be obtained via e-mail. Please contact Cathy Betts at 206-263-4267 or Roy L. Dodman at 206-263-4266, or by sending an e-mailed request to cathy.betts@metrokc.gov or roy.dodman@metrokc.gov.

SECTION VIII – BID PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

- A. One (1) signed copy of entire RFP package.
- B. One (1) signed copy of any Addendum that was issued. (If it has signature box at bottom of first page, it must be returned.)
- C. One (1) unbound copy of proposal response marked “Original.”
- D. Three (3) copies of proposal response.
- E. Complete the Bid Identification Label below (or reasonable facsimile) and attach it to a prominent place on the exterior of the submission envelope, box, etc.

URGENT – SEALED BID ENCLOSED Do Not Delay – Deliver Immediately	
 King County	King County Procurement & Contract Services Section Exchange Building, 8 th Floor 821 2nd Ave, EXC-FI-0862 Seattle, WA 98104-1598
Bid No.	RFP 115-06CMB
Bid Title	King County Noxious Weed Control Program Contractor
Due Date	
Vendor	